Last September Christians in Commerce’s Vision and Mission statement was refined to better focus and clarify the call we have been given. The Mesa Chapter’s leadership (service) council discussed its significance and how to communicate this information to our members in a meaningful way. After all, sharpening our guiding principles for the future is an important occasion and should be celebrated in a special way.

To do that, our chapter leadership presented a four-week “Living the Vision” series. We dedicated a full meeting to exploring the richness of our Vision, Mission, and Values statements. The meeting concluded with a presentation built upon the CIC prayer. The Central Mesa Chapter joined us as we launched our January meetings. To commemorate the occasion, we provided everyone with a special CIC coffee mug. Our three music ministers led us in Spirit-filled praise and worship under a prominently displayed “Living the Vision” banner to complement new Vision, Mission, and Values poster boards. To pay honor to the event, our leaders and speakers dressed in business attire—quite distinctive in laid-back Arizona.

When we recite CIC’s Vision and Mission statement, are we truly mindful of what we belong to and of the call we have been given? It is important that we know, as we are periodically reminded, that the origins of our mission came from a prophetic word. The founders felt called to encourage like-minded Christians to make a difference in the workplace. We are called to embrace the deeper spiritual meaning of being stewards of God’s creation where we work. It is our labor in our workplace that is ground zero in influencing the marketplace. There are important roles all of us, employed or retired, can play in supporting this mission.

The last verse of our CIC prayer asks our Father to fill us with the Holy Spirit, “that he may teach me faithfulness to your call to Christians in Commerce, a call that unites us and builds your Kingdom in the marketplace. Through Jesus Christ who is Lord.” May this prayer bring new meaning to our spirits for the future.

Have you ever done the Hokey Pokey? It’s that song and dance that tells us to put our left arm or right leg or some other body part in, shake it, and then “turn yourself around.” The last verse ends with the command, “Put your whole self in.” Paul calls it a “living sacrifice” (see Romans 12:1).

God wants visible, lived-out, bodily evidence that our lives are built on his love and mercy. Just as folks in the Old Testament sacrificed earthly treasures (often a sheep, a goat, or a bull) and carried their sacrifices to the altar, so we too can deny ourselves some earthly treasure or comfort and carry ourselves—our bodies—for Christ’s sake to the places and relationships and crises in this world where faith, integrity, excellence, love, and mercy are needed: the workplace.

So, how about fasting as an idea for all of us? I particularly am a wimp at it. But, what if each member or friend of CIC fasted on a particular day for the benefit of our entire ministry in CIC?

Is that “putting your whole self in”?

Dan and Karen Trevino live in Chandler, AZ where he co-founded a paint company. Dan is a twenty-year Mesa Chapter member and is a current CIC Board Member. He can be reached at dktrevino@cox.net.

Dan and Karen Trevino
Text or Talk?  
By Perry Benson

“You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.” (John 5:39-40)

Following a morning meeting at a nearby church, I went to the church’s kitchen to return a coffee mug. There, standing in the corner I needed to get to, was the facility manager, typing intently with his laptop on the counter. Since he hadn’t heard me enter the room, I said a soft “excuse me.” Virtually jumping out of his socks, he spun around to face me with eyes open wide in shock. I apologized for surprising him, but his explanations just came pouring out.

“It’s just been so crazy around here. People are texting me, emailing me 24/7. Everybody needs something. If I don’t answer right away, they assume I’m goofing off. The guy who worked here before me wasn’t interested in doing all this computer stuff, so now he’s gone. But I need this job! I just don’t know how much longer I can take it."

I did my best to calm and befriend him, but hearing such a story was heart-breaking; if this is what it’s like right now—they think they’re the only one in the world that wouldn’t have been a problem; to get the drink he wanted, he could have just checked his phone for the nearest coffee shop. What would have been missed? Everything, of course.

Why do we feel we can ignore Jesus’ example? Why, in fact, did God bother to send him to us as a human in the first place? Couldn’t he have just texted us? Or convinced us to study the Scriptures he had already sent? God sent Jesus to the world in the flesh. And that is also how he is sending you. If you want to be Christ to people, meet them where they are—in the flesh.

Lord, give me the confidence to allow my “unveiled face” to reflect your glory in the lives you put in my path today (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Do I use electronic media as a way to facilitate face-to-face encounters—or to avoid them?

Recall a time when a face-to-face conversation took an unexpected turn because of something that wouldn’t have been observable in an electronic exchange.


**WEEK 2 • MEN’S REFLECTIONS**

### Personal Sacrifice

**By Aloysius Mugisa**

Love is patient; love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. (1 Corinthians 13:4)

These words strike me anew. Love is not just an emotion but also a decision and a mission. I am called to love, often in spite of my feelings to the contrary. In John 15:12, Jesus does not simply suggest that we love; instead, he says, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you” (emphasis added).

We are raising four teenage girls, ages sixteen to nineteen. We love them very much, but we have had to be very patient with them. While their teenage behavior often hits my anger button, I remember that to love them is to be patient with them. I love them even in moments when they are not very lovable.

My wife and I have been married for the last nineteen years, and it is surely patient love that has sustained our marriage. Whenever my wife does not seem very sweet, I invoke patience, and the marriage continues. The phrases “love is patient” and “love is kind” are very emphatic. It teaches me that a love devoid of patience cannot be a love that is missionary, enduring, and focused on others. Emotional love can evaporate and disappear as fast as it appears, but patient and kind love can last. I want to love beyond my emotions and love from my choice and mission.

Love and kindness are inseparable. There is a poor, old woman who comes to our home almost every other day in search of food. At first her endless begging bothered me, but I remembered she needed loving kindness. We made her part of our family. Every time she comes, we give her kindness in the form of food and the little money we can afford. When our children see her, they say, “Dad, our old woman has come.” I am glad I have been able to love her kindly and patiently.

**PRAY:**

Teach us to love patiently and kindly, oh Lord, and give us the grace to love even when we feel hatred and animosity.

**REFLECT:**

Recall a time when you personally felt vengeance or indifference towards someone. How did you respond to your feelings?

**DISCUSS:**

How you can make a conscious and definite plan to love kindly and patiently in your home and workplace? Be as specific as possible.

---

**WEEK 3 • MEN’S REFLECTIONS**

### Making a Difference in the Workplace

**By Aloysius Mugisa**

“And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you?” (Luke 6:34)

Last year a staff member asked me to lend him $20. He needed to pay for his son’s registration for national examinations before registration closed. This teacher had a reputation of not paying people back. Before approaching me, he had already approached other teachers and the school bursar in vain.

I talked to three other teachers, and one of them told me, “Lend him the money if you can afford to lose it.” Others told be about the teacher’s record of fraud, which made me very skeptical. He promised to pay me back on payday, four days away. I had the money, but I feared he would not pay it back. I thought I might need it. I asked him for time to think about it but had made up my mind not to risk losing the money based on his past behavior.

As I thought, I was reminded of the Scripture about lending without expecting repayment. I knew God would be pleased with me, and I decided to lend him the money. I felt relieved when I gave it to him.

Word got out, and many teachers were talking about my gullibility. Two asked if I knew the person’s reputation. They made fun of me, calling me a philanthropist. I was happy I was able to be Christ to this teacher and his needy son. And on payday, this teacher repaid me in full. The whole staff was surprised that he had paid me as promptly as agreed.

**PRAY:**

Help us, Lord, to see your face in the people society labels as unworthy.

**REFLECT:**

Are there any people you consider unworthy of love due to their behavior or reputation?

**DISCUSS:**

Do you wait for people to be good before you start to love them? How do you love and care for people who are difficult or who have let you down in the past?
Holding Each Other Accountable  
By Aloysius Mugisa  

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. (Romans 10:17)

Governments, companies, and individuals communicate through different media to reach the masses and influence their choices. Ongoing persistence and tenacity help influence people’s belief in an advertised product. In CIC, Jesus is our “product.” We try to proclaim him as resolutely as possible in order to draw people to him. In Uganda, everyone is free to proclaim Jesus everywhere.

For the last eight years, we have been proclaiming Jesus over the radio weekly. We get a lot of positive feedback from our audience of about ten thousand listeners. The radio program also enables us to publicize our pastoral activities. Many of the people who come to our Challenge Weekends and other gospel crusades are listeners of our evangelical radio programs.

We built a CIC outreach team which we send out almost every weekend to lead Challenge Weekends, Marriage and Family Renewal Seminars, Leadership Training Courses, Youth Gospel Seminars, and more. We believe we cannot afford to keep quiet about Jesus. We take Jesus’ mandate very seriously: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15).

In March 2016, we held a spiritual renewal weekend in a village church called Kitumba. We held a preparatory meeting assigning members responsibilities. For three days, three of us gave talks on sin, repentance, forgiveness, charity, and prayer. Three of us led praise and worship as well as the discussion groups.

Sixty people attended this program, and we returned home very happy to have proclaimed the gospel of Jesus. All our activities include praying with people for baptism of the Holy Spirit as well as for healing and deliverance. God heals his people. Once a man testified that he found no happiness until he went on a Challenge Weekend.

Never underestimate the effects your individual contribution can make towards the salvation of those around you.

Aloysius Mugisa is a secondary school teacher. His wife, Oliva, is a primary school teacher. They have four teenage daughters, ages 16 to 19. Two of their daughters are adopted. Aloysius Mugisa is the Men’s Chapter President in Uganda. He can be reached at mugisaaloysius11@gmail.com

PRAY:
Father, give us the zeal you gave to your apostles to proclaim your name persistently, resolutely, and tenaciously.

REFLECT:
How often do you create or seize opportunities to proclaim Jesus? Ask Jesus to show you the opportunities he’s creating for you. Offer your availability to him.

DISCUSS:
How important to you is Jesus’ mandate to preach the gospel? What holds you back? Where is God opening doors for you? Where can you apply this call to the work of your chapter?

CHRISTALIVE! CHRISTIAN TESTIMONIES, STORIES, AND REFLECTIONS ON CIC’S WEBSITE

The kingdom of God is breaking out right in our midst, in our workplaces. You won’t hear about it on the evening network news. You won’t read about it in your local newspaper. But you will hear about it from members of Christians in Commerce. These reflections are just a few of the stories from the front lines of the workplace.

Christians in Commerce members share their stories, reflections, and testimonies of being Christ in the workplace. These are organized in twelve different categories on our CIC website.

- Christian Witness in Workplace
- Evangelism
- Forgiveness
- Healing
- Impacting Workplace Culture
- Relationships with Boss
- Relationships with Coworkers
- Relationships with Subordinates
- Stewardship
- Workplace & Family Life Balance
- Workplace Ethical Issues
- Workplace Integrity

Please visit our CIC website at www.christiansincommerce.org/christ-alive to view and share these reflections with your peers, friends, and family.
**WEEK 2 • WOMEN’S REFLECTIONS**

**Personal Sacrifice**

*By Diane Hannan*

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14)

I was traveling with my husband, Jim, recently. Because of his business class status, we boarded the plane early. We grabbed seats in the exit row with extra leg room and pulled out our Bibles and journals to begin our daily “appointment with God.” We waited out the boarding process to see if the open seat next to me would be filled. A young woman eventually sat down there. She was split off from her parents, seated four rows in front of us.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

My daughter had planned a five-day trip to attend a wedding in California. Her planned midday start was delayed by a lost car key. Within three hours of beginning her drive, the dashboard lights and sounds started going off! The car sluggishly came to a halt in the Arizona desert. After consulting her dad, she added some water to drive to the next major town. Her hybrid vehicle could have been a space craft to the mechanic she consulted, so her only recourse was to hire a tow truck to return to Phoenix.

We met her as the tow truck rumbled into the dealership after midnight. I wondered about her state of mind. She’d put in a long, busy work week at a conference. She had anticipated seeing college friends. She had had three hours on the road to wonder about how to pay for the unexpected repair costs and expensive tow on the salary of a church youth minister. However, instead of collapsing in a heap, she simply stated the trip was off. The young woman that jumped down from the tow truck had eyes that sparkled and a light around her.

We asked if she wanted us to pray with her. She said yes. As we buckled in for the plane’s final descent, Jim leaned across me to reach her to pray until landing. On my wrist was a bracelet handmade for me by a dear friend. I slipped it on her wrist, showing her that it was adorned with angels. I told her the angels would protect her. Her face beamed with a smile. As we alighted from the gangway, she stood in a lounge with her parents, presumably telling them about the flight. As we walked by, we exchanged smiles. God had called us to witness to her that day, and by his grace, we responded.

**PRAY:**

Lord, make me a shining witness of your love and grace. I confidently pray for your continued work in me, that I may help others. Amen.

**REFLECT:**

Does your behavior invite others to dialogue with you? Does your demeanor reflect your approachability?

**DISCUSS:**

Share about a time when God sent you someone new with whom you could share about your beliefs. How did the person respond?

---

**WEEK 3 • WOMEN’S REFLECTIONS**

**Redeeming Our Father’s Creation**

*By Diane Hannan*

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

My daughter had planned a five-day trip to attend a wedding in California. Her planned midday start was delayed by a lost car key. Within three hours of beginning her drive, the dashboard lights and sounds started going off! The car sluggishly came to a halt in the Arizona desert. After consulting her dad, she added some water to drive to the next major town. Her hybrid vehicle could have been a space craft to the mechanic she consulted, so her only recourse was to hire a tow truck to return to Phoenix.

We met her as the tow truck rumbled into the dealership after midnight. I wondered about her state of mind. She’d put in a long, busy work week at a conference. She had anticipated seeing college friends. She had had three hours on the road to wonder about how to pay for the unexpected repair costs and expensive tow on the salary of a church youth minister.

However, instead of collapsing in a heap, she simply stated the trip was off. The young woman that jumped down from the tow truck had eyes that sparkled and a light around her.

God had a plan that my daughter would not take this trip. He put up all sorts of road blocks: lost keys, the late start, broken water pumps, and expensive repairs. God’s plan was for my daughter to stay home and be present to the approximately 100 young people she ministers to in her work in a central Phoenix parish.

Some time before my daughter’s planned trip, a vagrant had approached the home of two priests in a nearby church, seemingly seeking assistance. Ultimately, he shot one man dead and seriously injured the other. God changed my daughter’s plan so that she could serve the youth who needed her during this difficult time.

By the way, the broken water pump was covered under warranty, and therefore the tow truck costs were reimbursed by Toyota. That’s our God!

**PRAY:**

Dear Lord, thank you for the plan you have for me. When challenges occur, I pray to trust you. Help me to be open and receptive to your desires for my life. Amen.

**REFLECT:**

Think about a time when you had a plan but forces beyond your control detoured, detained, or stopped you altogether.

**DISCUSS:**

Share about a time when you wanted to pursue your plan but you then received multiple messages that God was calling you to something else. What happened then?
The Fruits of Our Relationships as Sisters

By Diane Hannan

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

I work out in a crowded gym. One day I accidentally backed up into a woman, so I first excused and then introduced myself. We giggled and resumed our workouts. Later, seated across from me in the lounge as I was reading on my phone, she called my name. She shared about her recently deceased husband, how her friendships changed when she became a widow, and her move from an affluent part of town to one more moderate.

We agreed to exchange information. I offered to text her my contact information. With a quizzical look, she admitted that she did not know how to do that, so I sat next to her and showed her. She offered that she does not know young people who can help her with technology and then, without warning, she added, “I don’t have friends.” With a smile and sincere eye contact, I replied, “Now you do!”

We laughed about how we would “bump” into each other. I paused and then invited her to our Women’s CIC group. She hesitated, saying she had “her own version of God.” As I explained about the group, she wasn’t persuaded.

In Ecclesiastes, we see that God has an appointed time in which to do everything he has planned. I am not disappointed. I will befriend her gradually by sharing coffee or lunch. I know that I am there to offer her love. We will get to know each other, so that in time she may see Christ in me.

When asked about how I came to feel called to Women’s CIC, I answer, “There is a time for every season.”

Diane has worked as a high school teacher of Social Studies, a computer systems liaison and analyst, a corporate trainer, and a manual writer for financial institutions. She is married to Jim, who has been a CIC member since the early 1990s. They are the proud parents of two precious and beautiful young women of God, Lily and Rose. Diane is President of the newly formed CIC Women’s Chapter in Scottsdale. Diane would welcome your feedback or questions and can be reached at DianeMcHannan@gmail.com.

PRAY:

Dear Lord, I repent of any impatience I have shown and make a fresh surrender to your perfect timing for everything you want to do in my life. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

REFLECT:

Are you submitting to God’s timing in your life?
Have you grown impatient waiting for something to happen?

DISCUSS:

Recall a time when God subtly offered you an opportunity to serve him. How did you respond?
FRESNO STATE UNIVERSITY
OUTREACH
By Lucy Vasquez and Sophia Norman

After years of working together in education, the Lord reconnected us through Christians in Commerce. Due to our professional backgrounds, it was a natural desire of ours to reach young believers through the framework of CIC’s mission. The passion we share for young people has gradually grown into a calling. When we learned about the remarkable works God was doing with the CIC campus club at Arizona State, he inspired us to plant this seed in Fresno. However, we knew it was vital to wait on the Lord.

After years of waiting, the Lord sent us and Peter Arnold, President of the Fresno Men’s Chapter, to Fresno Pacific University, where we sought out Dr. Angulus Wilson, Director of Spiritual Formation, for guidance. He embraced our mission and proposed building a partnership, challenging his student leaders to work as CIC apprentices and to reach out to believers at Fresno State University, a secular campus. Dr. Wilson connected us to a Fresno State stakeholder, Dr. Francine Oputa, and helped us gain sponsorship from their Faculty/Staff Christian Fellowship.

The Fresno Men’s and Women’s Chapters are currently working with both universities to host a launch event on Fresno State’s campus in the fall, where our apprentices will be introducing the CIC mission. At this event, our goal is to recruit at least twenty-five students in order to establish ourselves as an official campus club. We ask for your support by praying strategically for the Lord to go before us, preparing the way for us to reach out to our young brothers and sisters in Christ.

2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

In February, twelve members from our Southern California Men’s and Women’s Chapters, along with the CIC home office, established the 2016 Annual Conference Planning Committee. Through the establishment of this local presence, these members are preparing to communicate with local chapter “Annual Conference Champions” to encourage attendance in Palm Springs, CA this coming October 14-15.

The desire is to promote our Annual Conference to multiple audiences, such as past attendees, current and past members (along with spouses), friends of CIC, children or grandchildren, peers at the workplace, friends from church or in other ministries, and those who have no awareness of Christians in Commerce.

One of the first items discussed was collecting “What the CIC Annual Conference Meant to Me” statements, which we can use in our marketing and messaging for the conference.

Here are a few of these messages:

- Fellowship… we reconnect with old friends, meet new ones. The Emmaus walks are wonderful for this!
- Boisterous Praise and Worship… which we may not get to experience at our local chapters.
- Personal Changes… recognition of our own paths which are “not of God” and committing to growing closer to him.
- Being Part of the “Ministry” or “Movement” of God… we are called to change the “mess we are in at present.”
- Practical Ideas on How to Live this Christian Life… to which we have been called.
- We Get His “Inspiration”… we gain motivation, new energy, and new passion for the call God has for us.

Palm Springs and the Palm Desert area (Coachella Valley) are such beautiful destinations that the planning team is considering offering some pre- and post-conference tourist venues. Look forward to receiving more information regarding our Annual Conference.

Please contact Jon Cassady (cassady@cicintl.org), CIC home office, or Peter Richardson (pssunfun@dc.rr.com), Palm Springs Men’s Chapter, who has agreed to serve as the team lead, if you have any thoughts or questions.

Start making your reservations now. We are looking forward to seeing you in Palm Springs in October!
CHRISTIANS IN COMMERCE PRAYER

Father,
You are my Lord and Creator.
You entrust me with a place of stewardship in your creation.
Fill me with your Holy Spirit:
That he may teach me to pray and live in Christ and as Christ;
That he may teach me love for family, friends and all people.
   A love that is selfless, humble, and wise;
That he may teach me stewardship of the talents, time, money and possessions you have given me.
   A stewardship that serves is generous and brings honor to your name;
That he may teach me faithfulness to your call to Christians in Commerce.
   A call that unites us and builds your Kingdom in the marketplace.
Through Jesus Christ who is Lord.
   Amen

VISION: Being Christ in the workplace
MISSION: To encourage and equip Christians to be God’s presence in the workplace by the power of the Holy Spirit, exercising faith, integrity, and excellence
VALUES: Christians in Commerce is an ecumenical organization committed to:
   • Growing and being transformed in Jesus Christ
   • Manifesting the gifts of the Holy Spirit
   • Building strong brotherhood and sisterhood
   • Serving God and expanding his Kingdom in all aspects of our lives